



## Jerome Allen Bengtson

June 19, 1934 - October 12, 2022

Jerome Allen Bengtson, 88 of Racine, WI passed peacefully on October 12, 2022, at Ascension – All Saints Hospital surrounded by his family. Jerry was born on June 19, 1934, in Willmar, Minnesota to Allen and Eunice (Reese) Bengtson.

Jerry graduated at the top of his class from Grove City High School. He continued his education at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter MN where he graduated with a degree in History and met his first wife, Carol (Stollenwerk). Jerry and Carol were married in 1957. Carol preceded him death in 1986. He finished his education at Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, IL where he earned his Master of Divinity in 1958.

Jerry was a Pastor for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America for 33 years. He had parishes in Mitchell, SD, Rockford, IL, Madison, WI and Racine, WI. In his spare time, he pursued many hobbies. Gardening and bird watching brought him a great deal of peace and enjoyment. He is a former President of the Wisconsin Iris Society have had over 250 different varieties of irises growing in his yard at one time.

In 1991 Jerry met the love of his life, Sonja. Jerry and Sonja were married in June of 1992. Jerry and Sonja enjoyed the tranquility of Door County and experiencing many cultures around the world during their travels. Wherever Jerry went he would make new friends. He was a great conversationalist who enjoyed talking with everyone. In the times when he sat still, Jerry was a prolific counted cross stitcher.

Some of his favorite moments in life were those he got to spend with his family. He loved to tell stories about his childhood and the adventures of his children and grandchildren.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife, Sonja, his four children, Heidi Bengtson, Julie (Mike) Dodd, Jarl (Shelley) Bengtson and Amy (Jesse) Wargowsky, his ten grandchildren, Chelsea (Chris) Dodd, Dakota Dodd, Lucas (Catherine) Dodd, Levi Dodd, Tyler (Rachel) Camp, Madison (Justin Wendorf) Wargowsky, Gabriel Wargowsky, Haley (Nick Lindsley) Abb, Emerson (William Nash) Bengtson and Jazlyn Bengtson and five great grandchildren, his sisters Helen (Donald) Slinden and Phyllis (Dan) Reber, sister -in-law Sharon (Dale) Finke, brothers-in-law Gene Beck and James (Andrea) Stollenwerk and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

In addition to Carol, Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and sister-in-law Carl and Barb Bengtson, his nephew Carl Bengtson Jr. and his brother Arvid Bengtson.

Private family Celebration of Life was held on October 22, 2022.

In lieu of flowers, Jerry would like memorials to go to Lutheran World Relief, Bread for the World or Service Dog Project (Ipswich, MA).

The family would like to thank -the ER, 5th floor, ICU and hospice staff at Ascension-All Saints Hospital in Racine for the care they provided to Jerry and to us!

# Tribute Wall



“ Heidi, Julie, Jarl, and Amy,  
Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. We hope you  
find peace and comfort through your shared memories. Our love to  
you all,  
Betty, Marci, Mark, Scott, and Lisa

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**Lisa Drury** - November 20, 2022 at 11:19 AM

PC

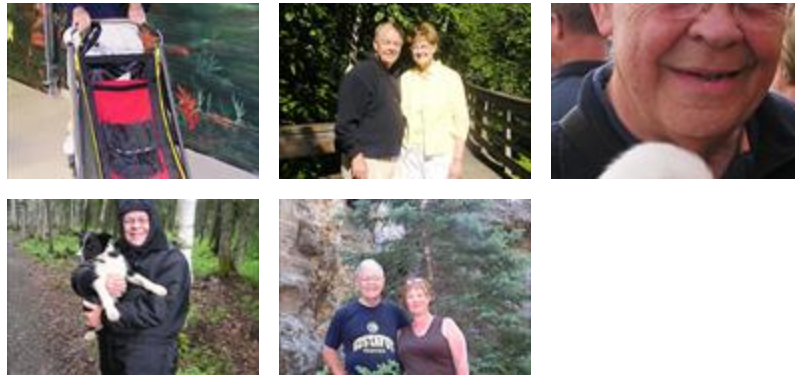
“ Know you felt happy for every day you had together. thinking of you  
now with love and sympathy. Peggy Christiansen

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**peggy christiansen** - October 23, 2022 at 10:41 PM

CM

“ 6 files added to the album Travel Adventures



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**CHERYL L MILLER** - October 23, 2022 at 01:24 PM

JR

“ Dear Sonja, I just know that Jerry and my Linda are together causing havoc in Heaven! What memories I hold in my heart of your sweet Jerry: RTG plays, dinners out, North Park gatherings. The two of you were definitely a match "made in heaven!" I know there is an empty space in your heart, but hold on to all the memories of times you shared together to help you during this difficult time. I know you will take comfort in what we all believe about life after death and the promises of the resurrection. Life has not ended, merely changed. For we shall all be united again one day sharing in the eternal life Jerry now realizes. With sympathy to you and the family, Jeff Rasmussen

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**Jeff Rasmussen** - October 23, 2022 at 12:12 PM

RH

*I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember when you were married. My George passed on April 20 of this year. Please go slowly. I know what you are going through. Prayers to you and your family.*

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**Roberta Halstead-Knudtson** - October 23, 2022 at 05:18 PM

DM

“ Jerry cared so very much about the kids in our community and volunteered countless hours to the improvement of our school district. Truly one of a kind.  
Dennis McGoldrick

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**Dennis McGoldrick** - October 23, 2022 at 10:06 AM

JV

“ I remember our special afternoon teas at your condo and Jerry would serve us. He was such a gracious host. And, of course, our many New Year's Eve dinners together. I will always remember Jerry with a smile on his face.

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**Janet Vetrovec** - October 23, 2022 at 08:32 AM

KK

*Dear Sonja,*

*I will always remember Jerry as a devoted husband to you. All the warm baths he had waiting for you after a long day of teaching, listening to your stories of the day, and being so proud of your accomplishments. You were the sweetest couple 🥰*

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**Karen Kreutz** - October 23, 2022 at 04:53 PM